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Paragraph 1 of the current specification text

The present invention provides uplift resistance to roof construction where valleys occur, an example of which is shown in Fig. 20. Fig. 20 shows the construction of what could be a small porch roof connected to a larger roof structure behind it, with the nine standard roof trusses 18 in the larger roof structure positioned below and supporting the four valley trusses 16 bearing perpendicular ~~thereto the four overlaying valley trusses 16~~. This overlap of roof and valley trusses, (18 and 16 respectively), to fill in the roof plane, creates a valley. A girder truss 36 is shown in Fig. 20 separating the four valley trusses 16 from three additional standard roof trusses 18 that extend parallel to valley trusses 16. With use of the preferred embodiments of the present invention uplift resistance strap, such as straps 32 in Fig. 20, the sheathing (not shown) that covers the nine standard roof trusses 18 underlaying the four valley trusses 16 would not require a hole to enable connection between straps 32 and standard roof trusses 18, as ~~required~~ is needed by prior art uplift resistance straps having a different structure and positioning. Instead, use of the present invention uplift resistance strap 32, as shown in Fig. 21, would allow a two-point connection of its planar base member 6 and wedge 8 to a standard roof truss 18 positioned below, and a two-point connection of its web member 10 to the valley truss 16 supported by its wedge 8, with all four connections being made above the roof plane formed by roof trusses 18. In addition to uplift resistance, the present invention also provides a built-in wedge 8 configured to level the

overlaying valley trusses 16, without a need for beveling the bottom chord/surface 22 of each valley truss 16 or a need for the time-consuming on-site manufacture and installation of stand-alone wedges (not shown) that allow a solid connection between the bottom surfaces 22 of supported valley trusses 16 and the sloping top chords of the standard roof trusses 18 beneath them. Further, the present invention would replace an elongated prior art tie-down strap that must be attached to adjoining trusses through a hole made on-site in the roof sheathing adjacent to the truss intersection. Thus, connection of the elongated prior art tie-down straps is accomplished in a separate step following the step of attaching the valley truss 16 to underlying standard roof trusses 18. Further, installation of the elongated tie-down strap typically requires two people, with one person positioned above the roof plane/sheathing to connect the upper portion of the elongated tie-down strap to the valley truss 16 and another person below the roof plane/sheathing to connect the lower portion of the elongated tie-down strap to the standard roof truss 18, or the same person to sequentially perform the upper and lower tie-down strap connections. In contrast, installation of the present invention is faster as it is used directly in the connection of a valley truss 16 to each of the standard roof trusses 18 supporting it, so that connection, leveling, and uplift resistance requirements are all satisfied in a single installation step. The present invention, already having a pre-formed wedge 8 incorporated therein, also eliminates a need for additional steps involving the creation and connection of a stand-alone wedge or the subsequent bottom chord beveling tie-down connection at each intersection of a manufactured valley trusses 16 to a standard manufactured wood roof truss 18. It is contemplated for the present invention to be made of rigid materials and have a unitary construction. However, the present invention can be made from plastic, nylon and other

materials formed through molded construction, or in the alternative made from a stamped piece of rigid material, preferably galvanized steel, that is pre-formed into the approximate configuration shown in Fig. 1. The wedge 8 of the present invention, pre-formed during manufacture at a designated angle 12 appropriate to the slope of the top chord in each of the underlying standard roof trusses 18, otherwise known as the roof pitch angle (identified by the number 44 in Fig. 20.) with which it is contemplated for use, provides leveling for an overlaying valley truss 16 without the costly, labor-intensive process of beveling the bottom surface of each valley truss 16, performed either during manufacture or on-site, or the creation and connection of stand-alone wedges (not shown) that are connected between the bottom chord/surface 22 of a valley truss 16 and the sloping top chord of each standard roof truss 18 supporting it. The wedge 8 of the present invention can be solid or hollow open on one or more sides, depending upon the materials used for its construction. Further, since holes 14 are pre-formed through the base member 6 and the taller end of wedge 8, identified as the number 50 in Fig 17, upwardly extending web member 10 and the base member 6 during use of the present invention an installer is not confronted with the additional time delays resulting from replacement of wooden wedges that split or crack during fastener attachment.

Paragraph 2 of the current specification text

Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment 2 of the present invention having a planar base member 6 with a first end and a base extension 4 and a second end 6, with a wedge 8 therebetween, and a web member 10 upwardly extending from second end base member 6 to form an acute angle 12 relative to first end base extension 4. Although web member 10 appears to have approximately

the same length dimension as ~~first-end~~ the combined length of base extension 4 and second-end base member 6, web member 10 could also be shorter or longer than ~~first-end~~ base extension 4 and ~~second-end~~ base member 6, with the length of web member 10 being determined by the governing uplift resistance code requirement. An embodiment where ~~second-end~~ base member 6 is shorter than web member 10 and ~~first-end~~ base extension 4 ~~has been~~ is omitted, is shown in Fig. 15. Fig. 1 also shows a wedge 8 positioned within acute angle 12, and connected between ~~first-end~~ base extension 4 and web member 10. The height of the taller end of wedge 8 would vary according to different pitch applications. In Fig. 17, the taller end of wedge 8 is identified by the number 50. Fig. 1 further shows the tapered end 40 of wedge 8. Also, although not limited thereto, the upper surface 28 of wedge 8, which provides the seat area for an overlaying valley truss 16, would preferably have a minimum surface area of approximately one-and-one-half square inches. Upper surface 28 is shown in Figs. 14, 15 and 21. Fig. 1 further shows two fastener holes 14 in web member 10, two fastener holes 14 in ~~second-end~~ base member 6, and one fastener hole 14 in ~~first-end~~ base extension 4. The number, size, spaced-apart distance, alignment, and configuration of fastener holes 14 are not critical, and at a minimum would be sufficient to meet nailing and uplift resistance requirements of the local or regional building code. Fig. 1 also shows the distal ends of ~~first-end~~ base extension 4, ~~second-end~~ base member 6, and web member 10, each being substantially rectangular in configuration and having chamfered edges to minimize injuries during handling and installation~~help resist bending the could otherwise occur from uplift~~. In addition to the configuration of corners appearing to be cut off at an approximate 45° angle, it is considered to be within the scope of the present invention for the distal ends of ~~first-end~~ base extension 4, ~~second-end~~ base member 6, and web member 10, to also

have the rounded configuration shown in Figs. 5-9, or other linear, arcuate, or curvilinear configuration. It is contemplated that first embodiment 2 would be made from molded construction, using metal, plastic, nylon, or any other material permitted by code. One preferred plastic material is polycarbonate. Also, although not limited thereto and only provided as an example, it is contemplated that the length dimension of first embodiment 2, from the distal end of ~~first end~~ base extension 4 to the distal end of ~~second end~~ base member 6, would be a minimum of approximately four inches and a maximum of approximately twelve inches. The first embodiment shown in Fig. 1 could represent either a molded or folded uplift resistance strap. The taller end 50 of wedge 8, which is shown in Fig. 1 in a position facing ~~second end~~ base member 6, between the lower end 48 of web member 10 that is adjacent to the top of wedge 8 and the lower end 46 of wedge 8, has an open configuration expected in folded embodiments formed from the unfolded stamped configurations of second embodiment 24 and third embodiment 26, shown in Figs. 5 and 10, respectively, the vertical support for wedge 8 being derived from its rigid side structures (shown in Fig. 5 by the number 42). In contrast, the embodiments of the present invention made through molded construction could either have a solid wedge 8, or a ~~hollow~~ wedge 8 with one or more open sides, similar to that shown in Fig. 1.

Paragraph 3 of the current specification text

Fig. 2 shows first embodiment 2 attached between the bottom chord 22 of a valley truss 16 and the top chord of a standard roof truss 18 supporting it, with the valley truss 16 bearing perpendicular to the standard roof trusses 18. Although two first embodiment 2 attachments are shown, the number of first embodiments 2 connected between valley truss 16 and standard roof trusses 18 would be determined by the local building code. The upstanding web member 10 in each first embodiment 2 is connected to the downwardly facing side of a supported valley truss

16 through fasteners (not shown) inserted through fastener holes 14, while the ~~second-end-base member~~ 6 of each first embodiment 2 is connected to the top ~~cord-chord~~ of the standard roof truss 18 supporting the same valley truss 16, also via a fastener (not shown) inserted through each fastener hole 14 present in the planar base member 6 of first embodiment 2, ~~which includes and also second-end 6 and first-end-in base extension~~ 4 (not visible in Fig. 2). As can be seen in Fig. 4, the bottom surface 22 of the valley truss 16 would be supported and leveled by wedge 8. When the present invention is relied upon to provide a wedge 8 for non-beveled trusses 16, one first embodiment 2 would become connected at every intersection of valley truss 16 to standard roof trusses 18. As shown in Fig. 2 and mentioned above, the uplift resistance straps of first embodiment 2 are only secured on the side of valley truss 16 that is facing the downward sloping ends of the standard roof trusses 18 supporting it.

Paragraph 4 of the current specification text

Fig. 3 shows first embodiment 2 connected between a vertically extending piece of construction material 20, perhaps a part of a manufactured valley truss 16, with a non-beveled bottom end 22, and the top chord of a standard roof truss 18. Fig. 3 shows ~~second-end-base member~~ 6 attached to the portion of standard roof truss 18 in a position downwardly extending below construction material 20, and web member 10 attached to the side of construction material 20 that faces the downwardly extending end of standard roof truss 18 supporting it. Fig. 3 further shows the non-beveled bottom end 22 of construction material 20 supported in a substantially level position upon wedge 8, and ~~first-end-base extension~~ 4 positioned against the top chord of the portion of standard roof truss 18 upwardly extending beyond construction material 20.

Paragraph 5 of the current specification text

Fig. 4 shows first embodiment 2 connected between a horizontally extending bottom chord 22 of a manufactured valley truss 16 and the top chord of a standard roof truss 18. As

shown in Fig. 4, first embodiment 2 is only secured to valley truss 16 via web member 10, and only on the vertical side of valley truss 16 that is facing the downwardly extending ends of standard roof trusses 18. Connection between first embodiment 2 and the top chord of a standard roof truss 18 is accomplished via the planar base member 6 of first embodiment 2, ~~which comprises second end 6 and also first end base extension 4~~. However, in some construction applications, as later seen in Figs. 19 and 21, other embodiments of the present invention only are connected to the top chord of a standard roof truss 18 via ~~second end base member 6~~ and the bottommost fastener hole 14b in web member 10. In Fig. 4, ~~second end base member 6~~ is placed in a position adjacent to valley truss 16 and downwardly extending from valley truss 16 with fasteners inserted through fasteners holes 14 and secured between first embodiment 2 and standard roof truss 18, while ~~first end base extension 4~~ is placed in a position adjacent to valley truss 16 and upwardly extending therefrom, also being secured by fasteners inserted through fasteners holes 14. As shown in Fig. 4, wedge 8 is positioned under the bottom chord of valley truss 16. The degree of incline provided by wedge 8 can be varied during manufacture, to accommodate a difference in roof pitch angle, such as that shown in Fig. 20 by the number 44. Also, although not critical, Fig. 4 shows ~~first end base extension 4 and second end base member 6~~ extending the full width of standard roof truss 18. The width and thickness dimensions of ~~first end base extension 4, second end base member 6~~, and web member 10 can vary, so as to allow a balance between the need for cost-efficient construction and compliance with the governing code requirements. The relative dimensions of ~~first end base extension 4, second end base member 6~~, and web member 10 can also vary, as can the number and positioning of fastener holes 14 therethrough. Also, although steel and selected plastics, such as polycarbonate, are preferred for the manufacture of first embodiment 2, other materials can be used as long as they meet the necessary strength requirements to satisfy the governing uplift resistance code.

Paragraph 6 of the current specification text

Figs. 5-9 show a second embodiment 24 of the present invention in an unfolded condition, and various phases of folding. In Figs. 5-9 the distal perimeter of ~~first-ends~~ base extensions 4A and 4B, ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B, as well as web member 10 are shown to have a rounded configuration. Although a blunt perimeter is favored for safety considerations to avoid injury, other perimeter configurations are also considered to be within the scope of the present invention, such as a rectangular configuration and the rectangle with chamfered ends shown in Figs. 10-12 for web 10, ~~first-side~~ base extension 4, and ~~second-side~~ base member 6, wherein the corners of are all cut off at an approximate 45° angle. Fig. 5 shows second embodiment 24 in a substantially flat, unfolded condition. The arrows above web member 10 show that as the second embodiment 24 takes its final form, web member 10 would be moved rearwardly and away from ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B. The arrows adjacent to ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B, show that as the second embodiment 24 takes its final form, ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B would each be moved forwardly and toward one another. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 show second embodiment 24 in a partially folded condition, with each successively higher numbered illustration showing second embodiment 24 progressively closer to its usable configuration, while Fig. 9 shows second embodiment 24 in a nearly complete folded condition. Fig. 6 shows ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B closer together than in Fig. 5, with web member 10 more rearwardly positioned than in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 shows ~~second-end~~ base member 6B being inwardly folded and rotated approximately 180° from its original pre-folded position, with ~~second-end~~ base member 6B being poised for a similar 180° inwardly folded rotation. Although ~~second-end~~ base member 6B is shown undergoing the 180° rotation first, the order of such rotation is not critical. Fig. 8 shows both ~~second-ends~~ base members 6A and 6B after undergoing a near 180° rotation, but not yet aligned with one another as they would be when second embodiment 24 has reached its final configuration. Fig. 10 shows ~~second-end~~ base member 6B and ~~first-end~~ base extension 4B aligned with web member 10, with ~~second-end~~ base member 6A and ~~first-end~~ base extension 4A needing approximately 90° more rotation for second

embodiment 24 to reach its usable configuration, similar to that shown in Fig. 1. When folding is complete, wedge 8 in second embodiment 24 would have the same hollow configuration shown in Fig. 1. It is contemplated for second embodiment 24 to be made from rigid material, such as steel, plastic, or nylon, and have a substantially uniform thickness.

Paragraph 7 of the current specification text

Figs. 10, 11, and 12 respectively show a third embodiment 26 of the present invention in a substantially flat unfolded condition, an intermediate folded condition, and a nearly complete folded condition. It is contemplated for third embodiment 26 to be made from rigid material, such as steel, nylon, or plastic, and have a substantially uniform thickness. Figs. 10-12 further show ~~the planar base member having first end base extension 4, and second end base member 6,~~ and web member 10 all of similar length and width dimension, each as being substantially rectangular with chamfered distal ends, wherein the corners are all cut off at an approximate 45° angle. Fig. 10 shows third embodiment 26 in a substantially flattened condition, prior to folding. In Fig. 11, the arrows above web member 10 show that as the third embodiment 26 takes its final form, web member 10 would be moved rearwardly and away from wedge 8. The arrows adjacent to ~~second end base member 6 and first end base extension 4,~~ show that as the third embodiment 26 takes its final form, ~~second end base member 6 and first end base extension 4~~ would each be moved forwardly and toward one another. Fig. 12 shows that ~~first end base extension 4 and second end base member 6~~ also undergo an approximate 180° rotation relative to their original pre-folded conditions, prior to the third embodiment 26 reaching its usable configuration. Either ~~second end base member 6 or first end base extension 4~~ can be folded in advance of the other, or both can be folded at once since there is no overlap of one member relative to the other similar to that occurring in the folding of second embodiment 24. Fig. 12 shows ~~second end base member 6 and first end base extension 4~~ almost aligned with one another as they would be when third embodiment 26 has reached its final configuration, similar to that shown in Fig. 1, with third

embodiment 26 having a hollow wedge 8. The adjoining surfaces of ~~first end base extension~~ 4 and ~~second end base member~~ 6, which extend diagonally and form the bottom surface of wedge 8, can be bonded or welded to one another during manufacture, if needed to satisfy the governing code requirements.

Paragraph 8 of the current specification text

Figs. 13-19 show a fourth embodiment 32 of the present invention in an unfolded condition, and various phases of folding, as well as in positions of use. Figs 13 and 14 show fourth embodiment 32 in partially folded conditions, while Fig. 16 shows fourth embodiment 32 in a substantially flat, unfolded condition and Fig. 15 shows fourth embodiment 32 in its completely folded condition ready for use. Fig. 15 shows the present invention having an upstanding web member 10, a hollow wedge 8 having an upper surface 28 extending forwardly from web member 10, a rearwardly extending ~~second end base member~~ 6, and several fastener holes 14. ~~Second end Base member~~ 6 is significantly shorter than web member 10, and in fourth embodiment 32 no ~~first end base extension~~ 4 is present. Another difference in fourth embodiment 32 is that wedge 8 has a vertical back wall (previously referred to as taller end 50 and identified by number in Figs. 1 and 17) containing fastener hole 14b1, instead of the laterally positioned walls 42 shown without a number in Fig. 1 due to limited space in the illustration, and therefore later identified by the number 42 in Fig. 5). A further difference between fourth embodiment 32 and the other illustrated embodiments of the present invention is that fourth embodiment 32 contains fastener holes 14b, 14c, 14b1, and 14c1, which collectively allow a fastener, such as fastener 34 in Fig. 19, to be secured through wedge 8. Although not limited thereto, Fig. 15 shows three fastener holes 14 through web member 10, with the ~~upper holes~~ uppermost hole (identified as 14e in Fig. 16) and intermediate hole 14d (identified as 14d in Fig. 16) being offset from one another as well as from the laterally centered ~~bottom bottommost~~ fastener holes (identified as 14b and 14b1 in Fig. 16). While the angle 12 between upper wedge

surface 28 and web member 10 ~~is shown~~ appears in Fig. 15 to be approximately 90°, the intersection between the bottom surface of wedge 8 and web member 10 typically represents an acute angle more pronounced than illustrated. Fig. 16 shows fourth embodiment 32 in its flattened, unfolded condition. Moving from left to right in the illustration of unfolded fourth embodiment 32 in Fig. 16, one first encounters web member 10 with three fastener holes (14a, 14b, and 14c), the bottommost of which is designated by the number 14b. To the right of web member 10, one next encounters rearwardly extending ~~second-end~~ base member 6, with one centrally positioned fastener hole 14a. The bottom surface 30 of fourth embodiment 32 is situated to the right of rearwardly extending ~~second-end~~ base member 6 and contains two fastener holes 14a1 and 14c. The upper surface 28 of wedge 8 extends to the right of bottom surface 30 and has no fasteners holes 14. The remaining two sections of fourth embodiment 32 having centered fastener holes 14b1 and 14c1 are unnumbered and are reinforcement members for wedge 8, the one which contains fastener hole 14b1 forming a vertically extending back wall 50 of wedge 8 during use, also referred to as taller end 50. Thus, when fully formed, the structure of wedge 8 in the fourth embodiment would comprise open sides, a double layer of vertical support at its taller end 50, a partially doubled bottom surface 30, and aligned fastener holes 14b, 14b1, 14c, and 14c1 that would allow a fastener, such as fastener 34 in Fig. 19 to pass through both layers at the taller end 50 of wedge 8, exit through both layers forming the bottom surface 30 of wedge 8, and enter the sloping top chord of the standard roof truss 18 upon which the fourth embodiment 32 is supported during use. To fold fourth embodiment 32 into its usable configuration, the lower end of web member 10 is brought into contact with bottom surface 30 so that fastener holes 14a and 14a1 become aligned to form ~~second-end~~ base member 6. As this occurs, rearwardly extending ~~second-end~~ base member 6 becomes superimposed upon a portion of bottom surface 30. In a separate step, the opposing end on fourth embodiment 32 is folded to form wedge 8, with fastener hole 14b1 becoming aligned with fastener hole 14b in the lower end of web member 10, and fastener hole 14c1 becoming aligned with fastener hole 14c in bottom

surface 30. Arrows in Figs. 13 and 14 show the directions of folding. Thus, it is contemplated for four fasteners, such as the fastener 34 in Fig. 19 that is configured as a nail, to be used for securing fourth embodiment 32 in place during use. A first fastener 34 would extend through two fastener holes, 14a and 14a1 to connect second end 6 to the downwardly extending portion of the top chord of a standard roof truss 18. A second fastener 34 would extend through two fastener holes, 14b and 14b1, further extend through wedge 8, and then finally through two additional fastener holes, 14c1 and 14c to connect web member 10 and wedge 8 to the top chord of the same standard roof truss 18. The final two nails 34 would each extend through a different one of the upper fastener holes 14 in web member 10, the uppermost hole 14e and the intermediate hole 14d shown in Fig. 16, to connect web member 10 to the vertically extending side of valley truss 16 facing ~~second end~~ base member 6. Fourth embodiment 32 has the simplest construction, and would produce the least material waste during manufacture. It is contemplated for wedge 8 to be manufactured with varying pitch corresponding to roof pitch angle and depending upon the application, and for fourth embodiment 32 to be made from rigid material, such as steel, plastic, nylon, and have a substantially uniform thickness. As an alternative to folded construction, a molded embodiment similar to that shown in Figs. 15 and 19 is also considered to be within the scope of the present invention, and which would preferably have a solid wedge 8, as well as a fastener hole 14 through wedge 8 in a similar position to that shown for fastener 34 in Fig. 19. Although not limited thereto, such a molded embodiment could be made from plastic material, such as polycarbonate. Fig. 17 shows fourth embodiment 32 connected between a vertically extending piece of construction material 20 with a non-beveled bottom end 22, and the top chord of a standard manufactured wood roof truss 18, while Fig. 18 shows fourth embodiment 32 connected between a non-beveled horizontally extending bottom chord 22 of a manufactured valley truss 16 and the top chord of a standard manufactured wood roof truss 18. Although the upper surface 28 of wedge 8 is not marked in Fig. 17 or Fig. 18 for clarity of illustration, both Figs 17 and 18 show upper wedge surface 28 positioned entirely under

the superimposed construction material, vertically extending piece of construction material 20 or manufactured valley truss 16, respectively. In addition, Fig. 17 shows the taller end 50 of wedge 8 extending vertically between the lower end 48 of web member 10 that is adjacent to the top of wedge 8 and the opposed lower end 46 of web member 10 that is adjacent to base member 6.

Paragraph 9 of the current specification text

Fig. 20 shows several present invention uplift resistance straps, such as fourth embodiments 32, each connected between the horizontally extending bottom chord of a manufactured valley truss 16 and the top chord of a standard roof truss 18. In the center of Fig. 20, one can see four valley trusses 16 supported by varying numbers of fourth embodiments 32, determined according to length and supported upon standard roof trusses 18 bearing perpendicular thereto. In the lower right portion of Fig. 20, three standard roof trusses 18, this time parallel to the four valley trusses 16, are separated from the valley trusses by a girder truss 36. As shown in Fig. 20, the web members 10 of fourth embodiments 32 are only secured on the vertically extending side of valley trusses 16 facing the downwardly extending ends of standard roof trusses 18. It is contemplated that the web members 10 of the second embodiments 24, the third embodiments 26, and the first embodiments 2 would also be connected to the sides of valley trusses 16 the downwardly extending ends of standard roof trusses 18, with the bottommost fastener hole 14b of fourth embodiments 32 being used with a fastener 34 that extends into the top chord of a supporting standard roof truss 18 and thereby connects web member 10 and wedge 8 to the supporting standard roof truss 18. The two top fastener holes 14 (shown as 14d and 14e in Fig. 16) are used to secure web 10 to a vertically extending surface of valley truss 16, while the valley truss is levelly supported upon the top surface 28 of wedge 8, the slant of the bottom surface 30 of fourth embodiment 32, as determined by angle 12, complements the incline of the standard roof trusses 18 to place the top surface 28 of wedge 8 in a substantially horizontally extending orientation. The roof pitch angle 44 is shown in Fig. 20 and identified as

the amount of incline/slant/sloping provided by the upper chord surfaces of the supporting standard roof trusses 18.

Paragraph 10 of the current specification text

Fig. 21 shows a fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention, similar in configuration to that shown in Fig. 15 and having a molded construction. Fig. 21 is different from the fourth embodiment shown in Figs. 15 and 19 only in that the middle fastener hole 14 shown in Fig. 15 (correspondingly identified as intermediate hole 14d in Fig. 16) is not aligned with the top topmost hole (14e in Fig. 16) and ~~bottom fastener holes~~ bottommost hole (14a in Fig. 16) on web member 10. Also, both have a ~~and the fastener holes~~ wedge hole 14f, shown in broken lines in Fig. 21 as a hidden feature through the bottom of wedge 8, but fully is visible in Fig. 15, but not Fig. 21. The fourth embodiment shown in Fig. 21 also has a ~~second end base member~~ 6 and web 10 having a greater thickness dimension than that shown in Fig. 15, none of which are critical differences. Figs. 21 and 19 both show a fastener 34 extending into the rear surface of web 10 through wedge 8, and beyond the bottom surface 30 of wedge 8 through wedge hole 14f. The angle ~~Angle-12~~ between the top surface 28 of wedge 8 and the first vertically extending surface 38 of web member 10 varies according to the roof pitch angle 44 (shown in Fig. 20) established for the roof construction formed by the standard roof trusses 18 supporting valley trusses 16, so that the bottom surfaces 22 of the valley trusses 16 are always supported by the top surface 28 of wedge 8 in a level orientation. In addition, Figs. 15 and 21 also both show the tapered end 40 of wedge 8. Fig. 21 further shows the second vertically extending surface 36 of web 10 facing away from first vertically extending surface 38, with the lower end 48 of first vertically extending surface 38 shown adjacent to the top surface 28 of wedge 8 and the lower end 46 of second vertically extending surface 36 being adjacent to base member 6.